

Elementary Crew Leader Guide



What's a Crew Leader?

If you've been asked to be a Crew Leader, you've met two important qualifications: You love the Lord, and you love children. During Treasured, you'll visit different activities with a group of three to five children. *You're not in charge of preparing or teaching activities; you just get to be there and help kids enjoy them as you shepherd the members of your Crew.* Because your Crew is small, you'll get to know and affirm each member by asking questions, really listening, and being encouraging.



Treasure Tip

This isn't from our field test but from a VBS director who frequents our online forum. She reminds the Crew Leaders that some of the kids at VBS might not ever hear a kind or affirming word. She encourages her Crew Leaders to speak God's love to *each child*. This director says it makes a huge difference in the way Crew Leaders treat and speak to the kids. Wonderful idea!



Make It Memorable

Bible Memory Buddies®

During your visit to KidVid each day, you'll give each kid in your Crew a Treasured Bible Memory Buddy and have kids put the Buddies in Treasure Totes that you'll keep in the Crew bag until the end of the week. Each Buddy has the day's Bible verse written on the bottom, too!

At the end of each day, kids will leave their Treasure Totes and Bible Memory Buddies in the Crew bag. This will ensure kids aren't without their Treasure Totes and collection of Bible Buddies each day at VBS.



Treasure Quest Bible Books

Kids and families love these fun, interactive Bible books that continue the VBS week's learning at home! They'll spark meaningful conversations with family members about how God treasures each person. The Treasure Quest Bible

Books are an integral part of the Treasured VBS faith discoveries!

Who's Who in the Crew

During their first Sing & Play Rock session, kids will choose Crew jobs. Each child will have one of the jobs listed in the chart. If children can't agree on who should perform each of the jobs, assign jobs to kids for Day 1; then rotate jobs each day so that by the end of the week, all children in the Crew have had an opportunity to do each job. The name badges also list these Crew roles on the back. If your Crew has fewer than five kids, some kids may have more than one job. Kids are excited about having special jobs. Encourage them to fulfill their roles, and provide lots of opportunities for them to do so.

Treasure Tip

It can be a challenge to get take-homes to actually make it home throughout the week, so with that in mind, we've suggested the Treasure Quest Bible Books go home on the last day of VBS. Your Director may choose to distribute them differently, but no matter the approach, excitedly encourage kids to take the books home and *use them!*

Your enthusiasm will help kids know these books designed especially for them have value and are a way to keep the VBS fun going at home.



Guide

▶ chooses action ideas for traveling through Treasured (such as shuffling while making monkey sounds or using arms to make "macaw wings" while galloping along)

Kit Carrier

▶ distributes and collects supplies and helps carry the Crew's bag

Prayer Person

▶ leads or opens prayer times

Schedule Supervisor

▶ helps monitor the daily schedule to let the Crew know what's coming next

Thank You-er

▶ leads the Crew in thanking Station Leaders each day

The Crew Family

Every member of your mixed-age Crew adds something to every activity!

I've just completed kindergarten. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I have a great imagination. I can help my Crew dive into each wild Bible adventure!



I've just completed first grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to be the best. I can help encourage my Crew to be the best it can be.



I've just completed second grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I want everything to be fair. I can help make sure we all take turns and treat one another fairly.



I've just completed third grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to be challenged. I can help younger members of my Crew with challenging projects.



I've just completed fourth grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to ask questions. I can help my Crew ask questions to make sure we understand what we're learning.



I've just completed fifth grade. I'm a unique and important part of my Crew because I like to make choices. I can help younger Crew members with tasks and help the Crew Leader guide everyone in showing God's love.



Top 4 Crew Leader Tips

1 Participate!

- ◆ Sing the songs and do the motions.
- ◆ Play the games.
- ◆ Be curious in Imagination Station.
- ◆ Use your imagination in Bible Adventures to interact with each day's story.
- ◆ Share your own God Sightings.
- ◆ Give your own insights during KidVid™ Cinema.

3 Lavish your attention on the kids.

- ◆ Turn off your cellphone—you can contact your friends *after* VBS!
- ◆ Use kids' names in kind and loving ways.
- ◆ Use eye-to-eye contact.
- ◆ Be a tuned-in, affirming listener during discussions. Paraphrase kids' answers in a response back to them to show that you've heard and understood what they've said.
- ◆ Give hugs or high-fives throughout the day.
- ◆ Be there for the kids as they arrive. Get there early. Check with your VBS Director to see when he or she would like you to arrive each day.

2 Support the Station Leaders.

- ◆ Quickly sit in knee-to-knee circles for Crew discussions.
- ◆ Listen to each Station Leader, and encourage kids to listen too.
- ◆ Put the Crew bag out of the way during activities.
- ◆ Be enthusiastic.

4 Be positive.

- ◆ Model the behavior that you want kids to have.
- ◆ Positively acknowledge kids' answers to questions. Rather than saying "No, that's the wrong answer," say "Thanks for sharing. Anyone else have thoughts?"
- ◆ Smile! Have fun!



Use Positive Words Like These:

- ◆ Let's keep moving so we can do as many fun activities as possible.
- ◆ Listen carefully so you'll know what to do next.
- ◆ Stay with the Crew; we need your help in this activity!
- ◆ That's a unique way of doing things! How did you think of that?
Let's try it this way.
- ◆ It's important that we all follow the instructions and work together as a team.
- ◆ Please move over here so you can see better.
- ◆ Let's all sit in a circle so we can see and hear one another better.
- ◆ Those Buddies sure are cool! Let's keep them put away so we can hear about this next activity.

What to Do If...

Most of the time, things will go smoothly for your Crew, but every once in a while, you may run into a dilemma.



If my Crew won't stay together...

Encourage your Guide to come up with creative ways to travel. Or work with your Thank You-er to come up with cheers to say as you travel.

If I have a clique in my Crew...

Cliques make the Crew experience unhappy for outsiders. Encourage friendships among all Crew members by pairing kids with partners they don't know very well. Offer reminders that they're "all treasured" at Treasured and that means caring for each other and that no one is left out.



If older kids are unhappy being grouped with mixed ages...

Highlight their helping role. Encourage them to help younger kids with snack experiences and other activities. Acknowledge them by telling younger kids,

"[Name of older child] is really good at that. Why don't you ask him [or her] to help?"

If a Crew member won't participate...

Help shy children feel welcome by calling them by name and asking them questions directly. Respond to their questions with a smile and a statement such as "That's really interesting!" Give children jobs such as finding a place for your Crew to sit at each station.

If someone *really* doesn't want to participate in Jungle Gym Games, that's okay. Treasured can be tiring! Let children rest until they're ready to participate.

If people in my Crew don't get along...

Quietly take the children aside. Tell them you've noticed that they're not getting along. Let them know that although they don't have to be best friends, they do have to be together all week, so things will be a lot more fun if they can at least be kind to one another.

If I have an overly active child...

Pair this child with yourself for partner activities, and suggest that he or she sit with you during quiet times. If those suggestions don't work well enough, ask your Director if you could have an assistant Crew Leader to help the child focus and participate.

If my Crew is out of control and unruly...

Be direct in calling out behavior, but maintain the fun in your voice. Avoid a battle of wills between you and your Crew. Use these fun Treasured puns to call attention to behaviors that need to stop:

- ◆ Cheating in games or other activities: "We're going off-map; let's get back to following directions!"
- ◆ Not paying attention to Station Leaders: "Are we trekking along with the Station Leader?"
- ◆ Distracted by side conversations or horse play: "I know we're in the jungle, but let's not monkey around right now."
- ◆ Complaining about activities at stations: "Let's show all our leaders we treasure them with respect. You may not love everything we do, but if you don't participate, you might miss out on something you didn't expect to be *amazing*."

If my Crew gets too big...

Treasured VBS is a blast, so it's likely that kids will want to bring friends. However, the activities at Treasured are designed to work with a mixed-age Crew of no more than five kids. If you have a small Crew, you'll welcome a few additional friends into your Crew family. But if your Crew grows past five children, talk with your Treasured Director as soon as possible. He or she will need to form a new Crew so kids can have the best experience possible.



What Do I Do at Each Station?

Sing & Play Rock is where kids worship by singing upbeat action songs. Your job at Sing & Play Rock is to

- ◆ greet your Crew members in your designated seating area.
- ◆ follow the motions and sing out loud.

Imagination Station is where kids can experiment, play, and discover as they use amazing Sciency-Fun Gizmos! Your job at Imagination Station is to

- ◆ listen carefully to the instructions because you'll most likely need to repeat them for your Crew!
- ◆ use *your* imagination and share your curiosity as kids explore their gizmos. It's time to play!
- ◆ help kids complete their activities (*only* when they need help).
- ◆ help clean up your area before leaving.

Bible Adventures is where kids experience the Bible story. Your job at Bible Adventures is to

- ◆ line up with your Crew outside the door.
- ◆ listen carefully to hear how Crew Leaders should help out that day.
- ◆ encourage Crew members to participate.
- ◆ share your own discoveries during discussion times and your excitement during each Bible Adventures.

Vine Dining Snacks is where Crews come for a tasty snack. Your job at Vine Dining Snacks is to

- ◆ gather your Crew in a designated area.
- ◆ help your Crew focus on the snacks leader as he or she explains how snack time works.
- ◆ help a different child each day lead from the provided snack card, guiding a fun snack experience that connects to the day's Bible verse.
- ◆ help kids clean up your area before leaving.

Jungle Gym Games is where kids play team-building games. Your job at Jungle Gym Games is to

- ◆ listen carefully to the instructions so you can help your Crew members follow them.
- ◆ participate in each activity, and cheer on your Crew members as they participate.
- ◆ participate during one day's game time in a "photo shoot" for the day's Spotlight VBS slideshow (a customized slideshow featuring the kids and leaders at Treasured)!

KidVid™ Cinema is where kids watch a daily video of *real* kids who have seen in their own lives that God treasures them. Your job at KidVid Cinema is to

- ◆ encourage kids to tune in and watch the video.
- ◆ lead your Crew in participating in the activities before and after the video.
- ◆ lead kids in discussion when it's called for. (Expect surprising insights and answers from kids. And don't be afraid of deep, personal conversations—those are where impact and transformation happen.)
- ◆ give kids a Bible Memory Buddy each day.

In KidVid™ Cinema, kids will discuss real-life examples of needing Jesus' power to get through hard things, to have hope, and to be good friends. Each of these is handled in a kid-appropriate way. The kids in your Crew may share very real experiences with you. Don't feel like you have to have all the answers! Use the Bible Points to reassure kids that even through disappointments or difficult times, God treasures us!

If a child brings up a serious issue, such as indicators of neglect, abuse, or violence he or she has experienced, say, "Thank you for telling me about that. It's very important, and we need to talk about it with our VBS Director [or children's minister if he or she isn't the VBS Director] to give you a chance to say everything you need to say—and help you with your feelings." Involve the appropriate person at your church who can follow through with necessary steps after the conversation, as there is not only a moral but a legal obligation to report circumstances where a child might be in danger.

Closing Quest is where kids experience an exciting review of the day's lesson. Your role at Closing Quest is to

- ◆ lead kids to your assigned seating area.
- ◆ participate in singing and other activities.
- ◆ remind your Crew to participate without being rowdy or disruptive.
- ◆ make sure each child leaves with his or her Sciency-Fun Gizmo from Imagination Station.
- ◆ collect Crew members' name badges and Bible Memory Buddies and store them in your Crew bag until the last day of VBS.

Day 1

Bible Point: God knows you.

Bible Story: God identifies David as the future king. (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

Bible Verse: “O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me.” (Psalm 139:1)

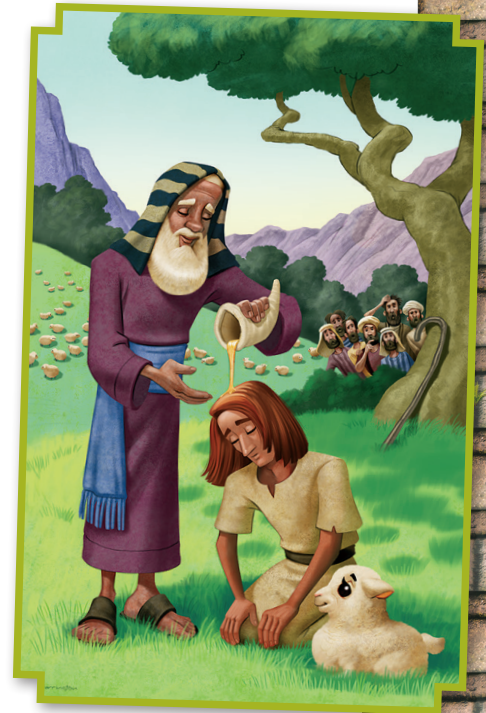
Consider This:

- ◆ Through the prophet Samuel, God warned his people of the hardships they’d endure at the hand of a king (1 Samuel 8:10-18). Yet their desire to be led by a human king—rather than by God—overtook Samuel’s candid cautions. So God gave them a king in Saul.
- ◆ King Saul’s initial humility soon transformed into hubris. He became rebellious and arrogant, leading God to choose a new leader for his people (1 Samuel 15:22-23).
- ◆ It’s unlikely that David’s family understood exactly the significance of Samuel’s anointing. For safety’s sake, Samuel wouldn’t have wanted to broadcast God’s designation of a new king while Saul still sat on the throne!
- ◆ Samuel showed his humanity when he evaluated each of Jesse’s sons based on outward appearance. God wasn’t interested in someone who *looked* like a king; God knew that David had the *heart* of a king!
- ◆ David ranked so low in his family that his father didn’t even invite him to the sacrifice with Samuel (1 Samuel 16:11). Instead, he tended the sheep—the job of a servant.
- ◆ Scholars estimate that David was about 10 to 15 years old when Samuel anointed him.

Why It Matters...

A recent survey found that more kids aspire to be a YouTube “star” than an astronaut, doctor, teacher, or musician. It’s no surprise that today’s kids crave fame and recognition. Yet as adults who love and lead kids, we need to ask “why?” *Why* do kids desperately desire to be known? What’s missing in their world? in their hearts?

In the technology-induced information overload, kids can feel invisible. Unimportant. Insignificant. That’s why today’s message brings hope! God, the creator of the universe, knows your heart. You can spark joy in kids as you affirm their value and visibility in God’s eyes. Kids don’t need to strive for celebrity when they discover that God knows and loves them.





Day 1

Bible Point:
God knows you.



God Sightings®

Every day at Treasured, kids and leaders will share evidence they've seen of God. We call these *God Sightings*, and they're an easy, practical, and powerful way to help kids realize that God is still active in our everyday lives. The more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

- ▶ Today help kids talk about things they wish others knew about them. Here are a few examples:
 - ◆ Talk about things kids feel are special about them, such as having a kind heart or enjoying helping others.
 - ◆ Suggest Bible verses and songs that offer examples of how God knows them better than anyone—and loves them too.
 - ◆ Point out ways you see your Crew members getting to know each other better and learning to be a team.

Treasure Tip

Sit in knee-to-knee circles for discussions. Call on kids by their Crew roles. For example, say, "I'd like to hear our Guide's and our Prayer Person's answers."



Treasure Tip

A God Sighting is *not* "I see God in that tree." A God Sighting is "I see God's creativity and power because only God can make a tree." God Sightings are seeing things that God has created, allowed, provided, done, or revealed to us.



Wrap-Up Questions: Connection Collection

Ask:

- ❓ **Call out some things you noticed and learned about our Crew friends because of the game.**
- ❓ **What's something else you think is important for our Crew to know about you as we start our week together?** Share an example of your own first, such as if you like to sing or dance, have any food allergies, or are new in town—lead with subjects you'd like to know about the kids in your Crew.

Say: It's so awesome to start to get to know you all! **God knows you** (You are treasured!), and it's going to be fun to discover together the cool ways God made each of us unique and valuable.

Info Gems From Your Director

Day 2

Bible Point: God hears you.

Bible Story: David escapes Saul and writes psalms to God.
(1 Samuel 23:1-14; Psalm 86)

Bible Verse: "I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy."
(Psalm 116:1)

Consider This:

- ◆ Saul, jealous of David's popularity, kept David and his men on the run. But David repeatedly resisted opportunities to harm Saul, in spite of the danger he faced daily. Not only did David have to flee from Saul (his own king), but he also chose to fight the Philistines (his people's enemy) at the same time!
- ◆ Abiathar the priest brought the ephod to allow David to speak with and listen to God. A chestpiece attached to the ephod contained the Urim and Thummim (Exodus 28:30), small metal or stone objects. Priests used these to ask God "yes" or "no" questions, to seek his guidance and will.
- ◆ David posed no small threat to King Saul, since David's army numbered around 600 men!
- ◆ After David escaped Saul in Keilah, the Ziphites located David and planned to deliver him to Saul. During this time, David wrote Psalm 54, in which he cries out, "Listen to my prayer, O God. Pay attention to my plea."
- ◆ Scholars are unsure exactly how long David ran from Saul. However, some historians estimate it to be around seven years! During that time, David had countless reasons to call out to God in desperation, triumph, sorrow, and loneliness.
- ◆ Since some psalms don't list an author, it's unclear how many David wrote. However, Bible scholars believe the shepherd-king wrote at least 73 (and possibly more) of the 150 songs in this book!

Why It Matters...

Kids can tell you *exactly* what it's like to be ignored or unheard. They know what it feels like to talk to a busy parent or teacher who responds with a distracted "Mm-hmm." They've been that hand, waving in the air, that didn't get called on to share an answer. And even when someone *is* tuned in, kids may not have the words to express what they're feeling. What a gift to discover that God hears every whispered worry or spoken celebration. The God who treasures us is eagerly awaiting conversation with us! Today help kids realize that not only does God hear our voices...but God also hears our *hearts*!





Day 2

Bible Point:
God hears you.



God Sightings®

God Sightings are a great way to help kids see that God is active all around us. Remember, the more you incorporate God Sightings into your conversations with kids, the more they'll "get it."

- ▶ Today help Crew members identify people who they know will always listen to them, or ways they know they've been heard. Here are a couple of examples:
 - ◆ Thank God for family members and friends who are always there to listen.
 - ◆ Keep watch for unique moments during the day, particularly during discussions with your Crew, where you can affirm how Crew members allow each other to talk and listen to each person. Ask them how it feels to know their thoughts matter in your Crew.

Treasure Tip

As a Crew Leader, you are the chief God Sightings encourager! Have fun with your Crew members as you look for God in action each day.



Wrap-Up Questions: Jungle Jam

Ask:

- ❓ What was it like to follow a path when all you had for directions were sprays of water?
- ❓ What did you like about being given directions in a surprising way?

Say: Sometimes life can be a bit like following the path in the game. We can't always know what's coming next or maybe how to get to a goal. We can get into "jungle jams" in our lives like we did sometimes in the game—times we feel confused, worried, or even afraid.

Ask:

- ❓ When you get in a jam in life, who do you ask for help, and why?

Say: It's so good to have people in your life who listen and come to your side when you ask for help. You can also ask God for help. You can talk with God in prayer about *anything*, and **God hears you**. (You are treasured!) God's answer or help might come in a surprising, unexpected way, but no matter what, God hears when you ask for his help.

Info Gems From Your Director

Day 3

Bible Point: God comforts you.

Bible Story: God reassures King Hezekiah. (2 Kings 18:5–19:34)

Bible Verse: “He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others.”
(2 Corinthians 1:4)

Consider This:

- ◆ Hezekiah inherited a weakened realm, surrounded by powerful kingdoms such as Egypt and Assyria. Nevertheless, he immersed himself in repairing Jerusalem’s fortifications, manufacturing weapons, and overseeing the creation of the Siloam Tunnel to safeguard their water supply.
- ◆ The gold and silver tribute Hezekiah paid to the Assyrian king likely weighed about 26 tons!
- ◆ Not only did the Assyrian field commander hurl a hurricane of insults at Hezekiah, but he did it in Hebrew so Judah’s onlookers could understand every offensive word. At the time, Aramaic was the official language, so it’s surprising that this officer had such a mastery of Hebrew.
- ◆ Hezekiah responded dramatically to the Assyrian lies, threats, and insults. He clothed himself in sackcloth, as a sign of mourning. He headed to the temple and laid the offensive words before God. Then he cried out to God, imploring him to turn his eyes and ears toward his vulnerable children.
- ◆ Apparently the Assyrians had destroyed the surrounding farmland, prohibiting God’s people from planting adequate crops. Yet in 2 Kings 19:29, God promises that his people will have enough food to last two seasons. What a comforting assurance!

Why It Matters...

Though they may not be familiar with his story yet, the kids at your VBS can relate to Hezekiah. Maybe they’ve experienced a bully’s threats or felt the sting when a schoolmate spreads lies. It’s likely that they know what it’s like when circumstances seem too big and overwhelming and it feels like the world has turned against them. God doesn’t promise to take away our problems...but he *does* promise to be with us, holding us through each one. Today, share your own stories of how you’ve found comfort in God’s presence. As Isaiah did for Hezekiah, be the voice of God’s reassuring comfort when life’s worries press in.





Day 3

Bible Point:
God comforts you.



God Sightings®

Keep looking for evidence of God all around you. Throughout the day, point out opportunities for kids to step outside their comfort zones to lean on the comfort God has for them. Encourage kids to...

- ◆ get more involved during games or take on a role they wouldn't normally try in a game.
- ◆ share during Crew discussions if they're normally very quiet.
- ◆ give snack a try even if they're not sure they'll like it.



Wrap-Up Questions: Fruit Toss

Ask:

- ? How did it feel to be linked to someone during this game?
- ? If you had to be linked to one other person for the next week, who would you pick? Why that person?
- ? God is always with us. Why do you think God wants to be linked to us?
- ? Why might you want to be linked to God?

Say: You might have been more successful at this game on your own. Maybe you felt like being linked to someone made it harder—but it also gave you a partner to support you through the challenge. Having God linked to you is *always* a good thing because **God comforts you!** (You are treasured!) God is the best partner to have through any of life's challenges.

Info Gems From Your Director

Day 4

Bible Point: God forgives you.

Bible Story: Jesus reinstates Peter. (John 18:1–21:19)

Bible Verse: “But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love.” (Nehemiah 9:17)

Consider This:

- ◆ Peter, whose name means “stone” or “rock,” had trouble displaying a firm faith. When Jesus first called him, Peter doubted Jesus’ wisdom (Luke 5:1-10). During a storm, he walked on stormy seas to be near Jesus...yet Jesus asked him, “Why did you doubt me?” (Matthew 14:27-31)
- ◆ Peter first denied Jesus when questioned by a seemingly powerless slave girl (John 18:15-18). Historians note that slave girls practically held the *least* amount of importance or influence in that time.
- ◆ Warming himself at a charcoal fire, Peter is questioned two more times and denies knowing Jesus each time. It’s interesting that John 21 records Jesus and Peter’s reunion after the resurrection at a charcoal fire as well!
- ◆ The first two times Jesus asks Peter “Do you love me?” he uses the word *agapeo* for “love,” which means a sacrificial love. In Peter’s response, he consistently uses the word *phileo* for “love,” which refers to an affectionate, friendly love. Scholars debate the reason the two different forms of “love” are used. Perhaps Peter is acknowledging his shortcomings compared to the overwhelming love displayed by Jesus.

Why It Matters...

Most children equate forgiveness with simply saying a hurried “I’m sorry” after they’ve wronged a friend or family member. Yet true forgiveness goes beyond mere words. It includes undeserved mercy, healing, renewal, and grace. Forgiveness means restoring brokenness and starting fresh. Kids may have *heard* about Jesus’ death on a cross, but it’s difficult to understand that God *required* such sacrifice for complete atonement.

Guide kids as they discover the life-changing truth that Jesus’ death provided a way for them to be with God forever. Use today’s lesson to show kids that God loves them enough to completely wipe away their wrongdoings, restoring a priceless friendship with our loving Father.





Day 4
Bible Point:
God forgives you.



Helping Children Follow Jesus

During the week, if you sense that a child might like to know more about what it means to believe in Jesus, give this simple explanation:

God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Jesus died and took the punishment for all the wrong things we do. But Jesus is stronger than death, and he came back to life! Jesus wants to be our friend forever. When we ask him to, he'll take away the wrong things we've done and fill our lives with his love. Jesus will always be with us and will help us make the right choices. When we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive us, someday we'll live with him forever in heaven.

Be sure to share the news of the child's spiritual development with his or her parent(s).



God Sightings®

Today help your Crew members think of God Sightings that are reminders of how God forgives them.

- ◆ God gave us the ultimate gift and display of how he treasures us through his Son, Jesus, who bridges the gap our sin places between all of us and God. You'll have many opportunities to help this truth sink in during Bible Adventures and in the closing at Closing Quest.
- ◆ Help kids reflect on the lyrics of the song "You Say" and how God deeply knows and loves each child.

Info Gems From Your Director

Day 5

Bible Point: God chooses you.

Bible Story: God chooses Esther to save her people. (Esther 2–8)

Bible Verse: “I have called you by name; you are mine.” (Isaiah 43:1)

Consider This:

- ◆ During his reign, King Xerxes invaded Greece, using one of the largest armies in ancient history, as well as a sizable navy. Unfortunately, the invasion ultimately failed.
- ◆ Nebuchadnezzar captured Mordecai’s ancestors, taking them from Jerusalem into Babylon. In Daniel, you can read about a few other Bible heroes captured at the same time!
- ◆ Although the name of God is never mentioned openly in the book of Esther, it’s clear that Mordecai believed in God’s sovereign plan for placing Esther in the role of queen so she could save God’s people.
- ◆ Haman offered an enormous sum of money to the men who would annihilate the Jews. The sum of 10,000 talents of silver was nearly two-thirds of the annual income of the entire kingdom. Scholars assume this money would have come from the plunder taken from the slain Jews.
- ◆ King Xerxes gave Mordecai a distinctive honor when he allowed Mordecai to wear a robe the king had worn. In ancient times, such an act signified a sharing of the king’s power, status, and honor.
- ◆ The book of Esther ends with a festival called Purim. Today, Jews still celebrate Purim, usually in March. Leaders read the book of Esther in the synagogue. Congregants cheer when they hear Mordecai’s name and hiss when they hear Haman’s name.

Why It Matters...

Being chosen feels special, doesn’t it? But it’s likely that Esther felt unprepared for the task for which God chose her. As much as kids *love* being selected for something special, they *may* feel a bit like Esther when they’re called on to befriend a newcomer at school, stand up to a bully, or share their faith. Kids may wonder if God *really* knows what he’s doing...and if they *really* can do such bold feats. Yet God didn’t only choose to love us—he chooses each of us to do his amazing work! Use today’s activities to encourage kids that they’ve been handpicked by God to be an integral, important part of his kingdom work!





Day 5
Bible Point:
God chooses you.



God Sightings®

Today help your Crew members reflect on the whole week and how because God treasures each person, he also chooses each person.

- ◆ Offer very personal affirmations of character strengths you've seen in your Crew members as you've learned more about them this week and how God has chosen them to do special things in their lives because of who he made them to be. Let them know God has chosen them to do amazing things right now, while they're kids—not only when they're grown up.

Thank You to You!

Thanks for all you've done to help children discover that there isn't a gem, piece of silver or gold, or any amount of money that's as highly treasured as they are!

Wrap-Up Questions: Diamond, Gold, Pearl

Say: **Each thing in the game was given a value so that one beats another.**

Ask:

- ❓ **Do you think the values were right in the game, and why?**

Say: **Stuff like gold, diamonds, and other treasure are worth a lot. But I wonder...**

- ❓ **What are people worth?**
- ❓ **Why might a person be viewed as more valuable than another?**

Say: **Every person is priceless because God purposely made each person to be exactly who they are. We're all precious and rare. And like you might choose a diamond, piece of gold, or pearl because of its value, **God chooses you!** (You are treasured!)**

Info Gems From Your Director

Treasure Tip

- ▶ Find out if the kids in your Crew have age-appropriate Bibles or Christian music at home. Talk with your VBS Director about providing these basic resources for kids.
- ▶ Continue building friendships long after VBS is over. Fill out the "All About My Crew" information on each Crew member. After VBS, you'll be able to send postcards and birthday cards and greet kids who attend your church.
- ▶ Give each child his or her Bible Memory Buddies and other fun goodies from Treasured.
- ▶ Thank your VBS Director for all he or she has done to bring Treasured to your community to help kids understand how deeply God loves them.



All About My Crew



Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Family members: _____

Favorite things: _____